



648
DEC 89
US 75¢
CAN 95¢



SUPERMAN

FEATURED IN

ACTION

COMICS



by
**STERN,
PEREZ,
GAMMILL &
BREEDING**

**THE
BRANNAC
TRILOGY
PART TWO**

"THE OTHER CAR CAME OUT
OF NOWHERE. I NEVER
REALLY HAD A CHANCE.

"I DIDN'T SCREAM
ONCE ON THE WAY
DOWN... GUESS I
WAS JUST TOO
SURPRISED.



"I REMEMBER TELLING
MYSELF, 'THIS IS IT, JOHNNY
BOY, YOU'RE DEAD.'

"AND IN A
WAY, I WAS
RIGHT..."

BODY AND MIND

ROGER STERN WRITER	GEORGE PEREZ COLORIST	KERRY GAMMILL ARTIST	BRETT BREEDING EDITOR
BILL OAKLEY LETTERER	GLENN WHITMORE	JON PETERSON ASSOC. EDITOR	MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

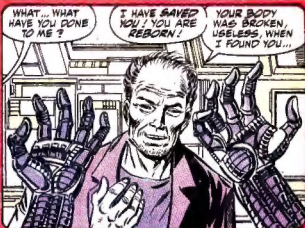




"... 'CAUSE, WHEN I WOKE UP, I WASN'T JOHN CORBEN ANYMORE!"

STEADY NOW! DO NOT EXERT YOURSELF. NOT YET.

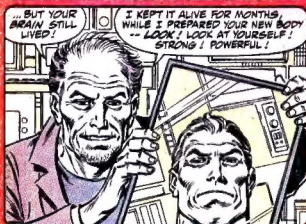
MY METALLO!
MY TRIUMPH!!



WHAT... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

I HAVE SAVED YOU! YOU ARE REBORN!

YOUR BODY WAS BROKEN, USELESS, WHEN I FOUND YOU...



... BUT YOUR BRAIN STILL LIVED!

I KEPT IT ALIVE FOR MONTHS, WHILE I PREPARED YOUR NEW BODY -- LOOK! LOOK AT YOURSELF! STRONG! POWERFUL!



MORE POWERFUL THAN SUPERMAN HIMSELF!

"THE PROFESSOR HAD DISCOVERED THAT SUPERMAN WAS FROM ANOTHER PLANET, AND FIGURED HE WAS AN ADVANCE SCOUT FOR AN INVASION!"

... SOON, YOU WILL UNLEASH YOUR POWER! YOU WILL KILL SUPERMAN!



"THE OLD GEEK WAS OFF HIS ROCKER, BUT HE KNEW HIS SCIENCE!"

"HE'D FOUND A PIECE OF SUPER-MAN'S WORLD, KRYPTONITE, HE CALLED IT."



BY REPLACING THE URANIUM I HAD IN YOUR CHEST CAVITY WITH THIS KRYPTONITE...

... I GIVE YOU MORE POWER THAN ANY HUMAN HAS EVER KNOWN!!



AND WITH THE FINAL ADDITION OF THESE PLASTEX GLOVES... YOUR DISGUISE IS COMPLETE!

YOU ARE METALLO!!



THEN I DON'T REALLY NEED YOU ANYMORE, DO I, OLD MAN?

KREN-K

"I SPENT WEEKS TRYING TO DEAL WITH WHAT'D HAPPENED TO ME. MAYBE I WENT A LITTLE CRAZY, I DON'T KNOW..."

"...BUT I BEGAN TO SEE MYSELF AS A KING... KING OF THE WORLD!"

"AND THE EASIEST WAY TO PROVE MY POWER WAS TO DO WHAT THE OLD MAN WANTED..."

"...KILL SUPERMAN!"

"I COULD HAVE DONE IT! I HAD HIM DOWN AND HELPLESS, MY KRYPTONITE RADIATION WAS RAPIDLY POISONING HIM!"

"...I WAS PULLED AWAY, CAPTURED BY AGENTS OF LEX LUTHOR!"

THE KILLING OF SUPERMAN IS A PLEASURE RESERVED FOR MYSELF!

ER--YES--WELL, THAT'S THE PROBLEM WE'RE NOW ADDRESSING, SIR.

THE KRYPTONITE IN METALLO'S CHEST IS WHAT POWERS HIM. WE CAN'T FIND A WAY TO REMOVE IT WITHOUT KILLING HIM.

IS THAT ALL?

"BUT, BEFORE I COULD FINISH THE JOB..."

ARE YOU MAD?? YOU'RE JUST A MAN! RICH AND POWERFUL, YES, BUT ONLY HUMAN! YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!

OH, BUT I DO, METALLO. AND YOU'VE GIVEN IT TO ME! YOU'VE GIVEN ME KRYPTONITE!

YEA-AGHH!

"DYING WASN'T ANY EASIER THE SECOND TIME..."

"...OR ANY MORE PERMANENT!"

"THE KRYPTONITE FUELED MY MAIN POWER SUPPLY, BUT LUTHOR'S EXPERT DIDN'T KNOW THAT I HAD A POWER BACKUP, AS WELL AS A SEPARATE LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEM!"

"AFTER A FEW DAYS SPENT CONSERVING MY ENERGY, I STOLE SOME URANIUM AND BROKE OUT OF THERE!"

"I WAS DETERMINED TO GET MY KRYPTONITE BACK-- BUT FROM WHAT I'D SEEN OF LUTHOR'S OPERATIONS, I KNEW I'D HAVE TO WATCH MY STEP."

"I STARTED RAIDING LEXCORP INSTALLATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. I COULDN'T FIND A TRACE OF THE KRYPTONITE..."

"...BUT I DID LEARN ABOUT A SHIPMENT OF ADVANCED ROBOTICS COMPONENTS, WHICH I DECIDED TO TAKE FOR MYSELF."

"MY BODY WAS BLOWN APART IN THAT BATTLE. THE DOOM PATROL ASSUMED THAT I'D BEEN DESTROYED, BUT AFTER ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED, LEXCORP WAS TAKING NO CHANCES."

"KEEP SEARCHING, HIS HEAD HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE!"

"BUT, DR. HAPPERTSEN, IF SUPERMAN COULDN'T FIND IT--!"

"SUPERMAN DIDN'T HAVE OUR EQUIPMENT!"

"WAIT... I'VE FOUND IT! AND IT'S STILL INTACT!"

"UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR OWNER WAS THE DOOM PATROL'S ROBOTMAN, AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE THEM UP! STILL, I WOULD HAVE BEATEN HIM--"

"--IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR SUPERMAN AND THE REST OF THE PATROL!"

"NOW PERHAPS I'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU WORKED, EH?"

"MY BRAIN WAS STILL ALIVE, BUT I COULDN'T TELL HIM. MY VOICE WOULDN'T WORK!"

"AND THEN, EVERYTHING STARTED GOING DARK..."

... I THOUGHT
THAT WAS THE
END FOR ME.

AFTER THAT ... THE NEXT THING
I CAN REMEMBER IS COMING TO
INSIDE THAT PACKING CRATE AND
WONDERING WHERE IN BLAZES
I WAS.

I'M STILL NOT SURE
HOW I MANAGED TO SUR-
VIVE ... NOT THAT I'M COM-
PLAINING! IT'S GOOD TO
BE BACK IN ONE
PIECE AGAIN!

I OWE YOU
FOR THAT,
BRAINIAC!

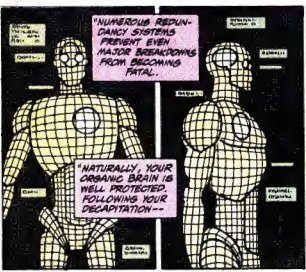
OF COURSE
YOU DO.

AT ANY RATE,
I BELIEVE I HAVE
DISCOVERED THE
REASON FOR YOUR
"RESURRECTION"...



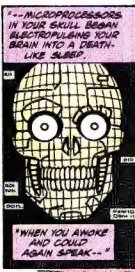
...AND THERE'S NOTHING PARTICULARLY MIRACULOUS ABOUT IT. MY ANALYSIS OF YOUR INTERIOR CIRCUITRY HAS BEEN MOST ENLIGHTENING.

THE MAN WHO CONSTRUCTED YOUR BODY WAS MOST CERTAINLY A GENIUS, IF A SOMEWHAT ADDLED ONE... HIS DESIGN WORK WAS QUITE EXEMPLARY.



"NUMEROUS REDUNDANCY SYSTEMS PREVENT EVEN MAJOR BREAKTHROUS FROM BECOMING FATAL."

"NATURALLY, YOUR ORGANIC BRAIN IS WELL PROTECTED. FOLLOWING YOUR DECAPITATION--"

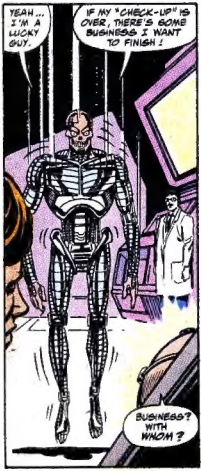


"--MICROPROCESSORS IN YOUR SKULL BEGAN ELECTROPULSING YOUR BRAIN INTO A DEATH-LIKE SLEEP."

"WHEN YOU AWAKE AND COULD AGAIN SPEAK--"



--IT WAS YOUR GOOD LUCK THAT I WAS NEARBY.



YEAH... I'M A LUCKY GUY.

IF MY "CHECK-UP" IS OVER, THERE'S SOME BUSINESS I WANT TO FINISH!

BUSINESS? WITH WHOM?



WITH NAPPERSEN HERE-- HE'S THE CREEP WHO STUFFED ME IN THE CRATE!

PUT HIM DOWN, METALLO!



I KOFF! STILL NEED HAPPSSEN! YOUR PETTY REVENGE WILL HAVE TO KOFF-- KOFF! HAVE TO WAIT!



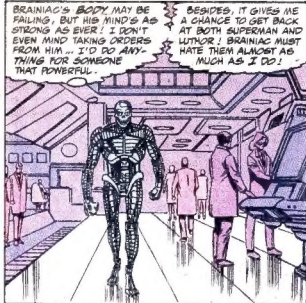
YOU HAVE OTHER DUTIES TO FULFILL. I SUGGEST YOU ATTEND TO THEM PROMPTLY.

DON'T WORRY...

...EVEN IF I WASN'T IN YOUR DEBT--

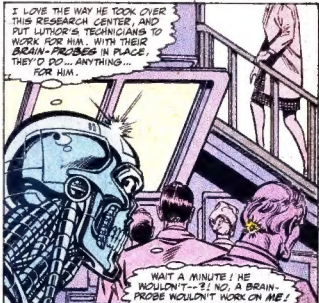


--I'D KNOW BETTER THAN TO CROSS A MAN WHO CAN HOLD ME IN MIDAIR WITH JUST THE POWER OF HIS MIND!



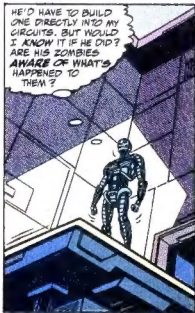
BRAINIAC'S BODY MAY BE FAILING, BUT HIS MIND'S AS STRONG AS EVER! I DON'T EVEN MIND TAKING ORDERS FROM HIM... I'D DO ANYTHING FOR SOMEONE THAT POWERFUL.

BESIDES, IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO GET BACK AT BOTH SUPERMAN AND LUTHOR! BRAINIAC MUST HATE THEM ALMOST AS MUCH AS I DO!



I LOVE THE WAY HE TOOK OVER THIS RESEARCH CENTER, AND PUT LUTHOR'S TECHNICIANS TO WORK FOR HIM. WITH THEIR BRAIN-PROBES IN PLACE, THEY'D DO... ANYTHING... FOR HIM.

WAIT A MINUTE! HE WOULDN'T--?! NO, A BRAIN-PROBE WOULDN'T WORK ON ME!



HE'D HAVE TO BUILD ONE DIRECTLY INTO MY CIRCUITS. BUT WOULD I KNOW IT IF HE DID? ARE HIS ZOMBIES AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM?



BEST NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW. WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS THE JOB AT HAND.

HEY, THERE! READY TO GO?



READY. I WAS INSTRUCTED TO GIVE YOU THIS. IT CONTAINS---

I KNOW WHAT'S IN IT. COME ON, I'M ALREADY TIRED OF THE ROCKIES--



--LET'S FLY!--

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I'VE CALLED YOU ALL HERE.



I APOLOGIZE FOR THE ACCOMMODATIONS. I KNOW HOW UNCOMFORTABLE IT CAN BE TO TRAVEL BY CRATE! HEH-HEH!

BUT I PROMISE NOT TO KEEP YOU COOPED UP AS LONG AS I WAS!

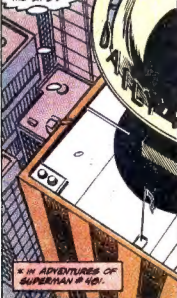


WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK AHEAD OF US, BOYS... INDEED, WE DO...

"...BUT IT'LL BE GOOD TO SEE METROPOLIS AGAIN!"

THANK GOD, I FINALLY MANAGED TO PULL THE PLUG ON THE ERADICATOR BEFORE IT COULD HURT ANYONE ELSE! KRYPTONIAN LEGACY OR NOT, I NEVER SHOULD'VE BROUGHT THAT INFERNAL DEVICE TO EARTH!

IT MAY HAVE COST JIMMY OLSEN HIS LIFE!



* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #46.

NO! I MUST HAVE FAITH THAT JIMMY WILL TURN UP ALIVE AND WELL--*

--OTHERWISE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ANYTHING DONE... AND I HAVE TOO MANY RESPONSIBILITIES, BOTH AS SUPERMAN AND CLARK KENT!



*JIMMY DISAPPEARED UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN SUPERMAN #38.

SO WHAT POSSESSED ME TO EVEN CONSIDER COLLIN THORNTON'S OFFER TO BECOME THE NEW MANAGING EDITOR OF NEWSTIME?*

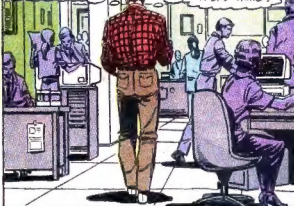
I'M HONORED THAT HE WANTS ME AT HIS MAGAZINE--



*ADVENTURES #46.

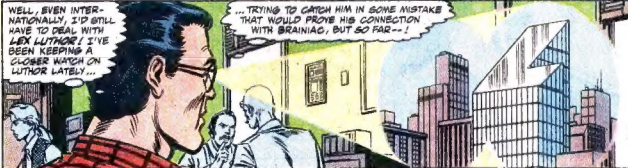
--BUT THE PLANET IS LIKE A SECOND HOME TO ME, AND DO I REALLY WANT TO BE AN EDITOR?

TRUE, WORKING FOR A MAJOR NEWS MAGAZINE WOULD FORCE ME TO LOOK AT THINGS ON A MORE WORLDWIDE LEVEL... WOULD THAT BE SUCH A BAD THING?



WELL, EVEN INTERNATIONALLY, I'D STILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH LEX LUTHOR! I'VE BEEN KEEPING A CLOSER WATCH ON LUTHOR LATELY...

...TRYING TO CATCH HIM IN SOME MISTAKE THAT WOULD PROVE HIS CONNECTION WITH BRAINIAC, BUT SO FAR--!



KENT! WE JUST GOT WORD... SOME SORT OF ROBOT HAS BROKEN INTO THE METROPOLIS MERCANTILE BANK ON SOUTH MAXWELL!

A ROBOT?!

ON MY WAY, CHIEF!

THAT BANK IS OWNED BY LEX-CORP... COULD THIS BE INTERGANG FLEXING ITS MUSCLE AGAIN?

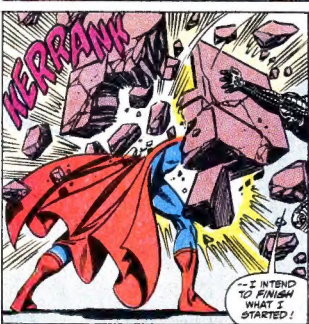
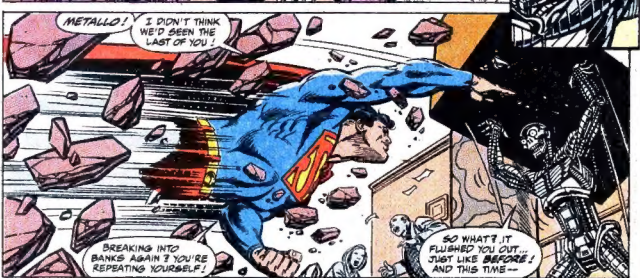
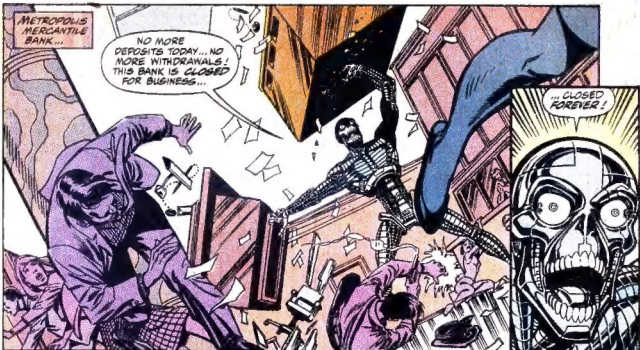


WELL, I'LL SOON FIND OUT! OR RATHER--

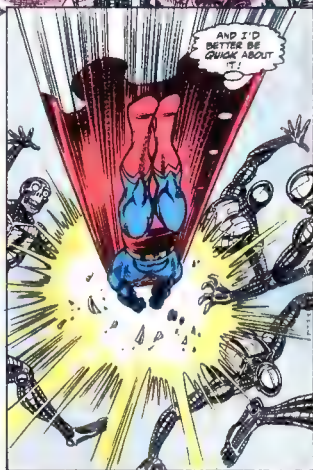
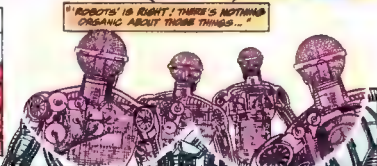
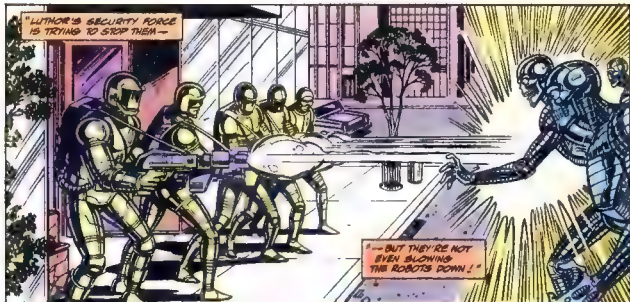


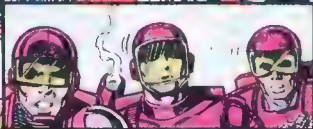
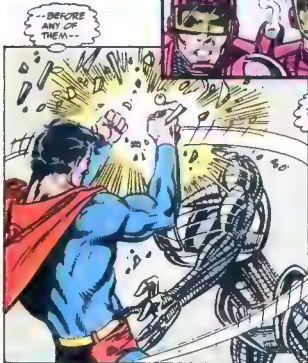
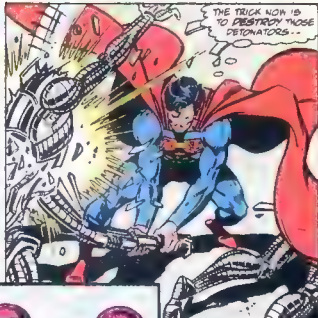
--SUPERMAN WILL!

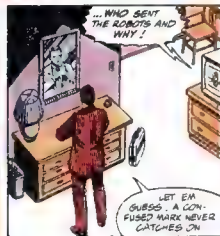
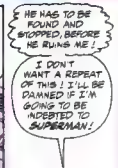
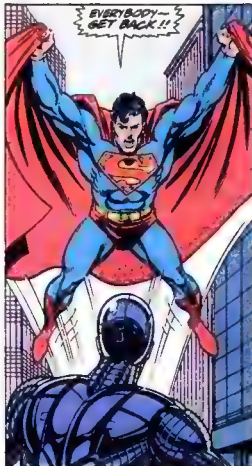












MEANWHILE IN A HYPERBARIC CHAMBER DEEP IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS...

HAPPERSEN... I'VE BEEN CAREFULLY I HAVE CROSS-REFERENCED SCHEMATICS... OF METALLO'S BODY WITH THOSE OF OTHER CYBERNETIC SYSTEMS... DRAWN FROM LEXCORP AND STAR LABS FILES

YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ANALYSIS... MERGE THE FILES... AND PROCURE THE MATERIALS WE WILL NEED FOR KAFFE! THE REINFORCEMENT OF MY BODY.

YES, SIR.

DR. HAPPERSEN HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE FADING. IF WE DO NOT ACT SOON, THERE WILL BE NO ORGANIC COMPONENT LEFT TO SALVAGE

SIR?

! AUN-HAUK-HAUK!

I... HEARD HER. I KNOW.

PREPARE THE CRYOGENIC STORAGE!

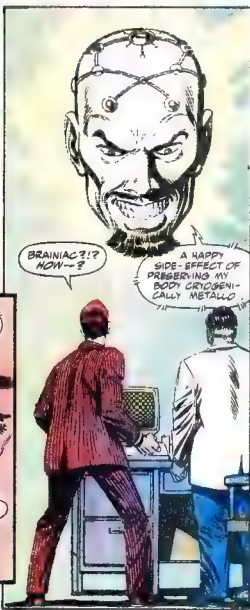
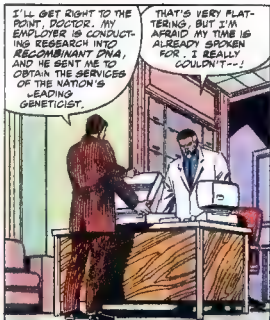
HAPPERSEN... REMEMBER MY ORDERS...

EVEN IF YOU... CANNOT HEAR ME DIRECTLY... YOU MUST STILL CARRY OUT!!

DR. HAPPERSEN. SOMETHING VERY STRANGE IS HAPPENING HERE... INSTRUMENTS SHOW THAT BRAINIAC'S BRAINWAVE ACTIVITY IS INCREASING!

READINGS ARE GOING OFF THE SCALE! WHAT~???

I AM FREE ONCE MORE! FREE!!



MY PHYSICAL BRAIN
HAS BECOME A SUPER-
CONDUCTOR ALLOWING ME
TO PROTECT MY MIND AND
WILL EVEN FARTHER THAN
BEFORE. IT WAS A SIMPLE
MATTER TO FOCUS ON
DR. AUGUSTINE'S
PROBE

NOW, MY
GOOD DOCTOR, DO
TELL US MORE ABOUT
THIS PROJECT!

"THE CADMUS PROJECT IS A SECRET
GENETICS PROGRAM BASED IN AND
AROUND METROPOLIS. I AM ONE
OF ITS FOUNDERS..."

I'M
SORRY, DR.
AUGUSTINE

--BUT I CAN'T
ADMIT YOUR ASSISTANT
WITHOUT SPECIAL
AUTHORIZATION.

NICE TRY,
"OBI-WAN,"
BUT AREN'T
YOU GOING TO
ATTRACT AN
AWFUL LOT OF
ATTENTION?

AUTHORIZATION
IS GRANTED...
ADMIT THEM.

WELL...
EVERYTHING'S IN
ORDER. LET ME GET
YOUR BADGES.

ONLY YOU
ARE AWARE
OF ME, UNLESS
I WILL IT
OTHERWISE!

THIS COMPLEX IS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE
EXAMPLE OF TERRESTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
I HAVE EVER SEEN! IT MUST EXTEND
FOR MILES UNDERGROUND

ANY MORE
WORD ON
OLSEN?

NEGATIVE. WE'RE
NOT CERTAIN
WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO HIM--

"--BUT DUBBLEX IS WORKING
ON IT. IF ANYONE CAN UNRAVEL
A PUZZLE LIKE THIS, OUR
RESIDENT D.N. ALIEN CAN."

WHAT?

A PRESENCE
HAS ENTERED
THE PROJECT

...I CAN FEEL
IT! IT IS AN ALIEN
MIND OF GREAT
POWER!

THERE'S A
PRESENCE
ABOUT IT. WHAT,
EVER IT IS.

"...IT CANNOT BE UP TO ANY GOOD!"

JUST WHAT
IS THIS GOOD
SUPPOSED
TO DO?

THIS "GOOD" IS
MY BEST HOPE FOR
SURVIVAL!



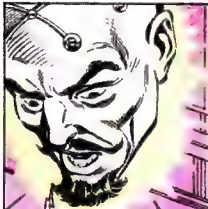
IF THOSE CELL SAMPLES
CAN BE BIOENGINEERED TO
APPROXIMATE THE GENOTYPE
OF MY ORIGINAL COLMAN BODY...

--THE RESULTANT SUB-
STANCE SHOULD TRANS-
FORM MY NEW HOST
BODY INTO A STRONGER
ORGANISM, WHILE STILL
MAINTAINING THE BRAIN'S
AMAZING POWERS!

YOU WORK
QUICKLY, DOCTOR,
FOR ONE UNFAMILIAR
WITH ALIEN
GENES.



THE PROJECT
HAD ALREADY PRO-
DUCED ITS SHARE
OF ALIENS!



REALLY?
YES... I CAN
SEE IN YOUR
MIND, MEMO-
RIES OF--!

GORDEN!

WHAT'S
WRONG?

GET
READY--

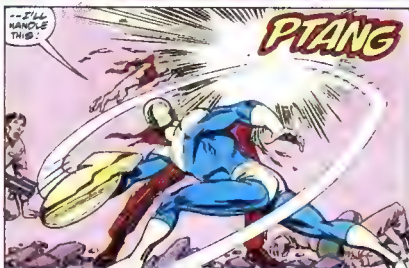


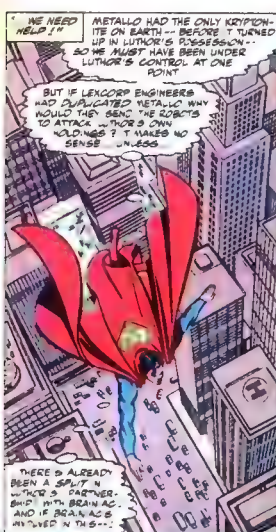
"--THERE'S TROUBLE HEADED THIS WAY!"

THE
PRESENCE BONG
STRONGER DOWN
THIS CORRIDOR,
GUARDIAN!



DON'T WORRY
DUBBLEX! WE'LL
PERRET IT OUT,
WHEREVER IT
MAY BE!





"WE NEED HELP!"

METALLO HAD THE ONLY KRYPTONITE ON EARTH-- BEFORE I TURNED UP IN LUTHOR'S POSSESSION-- SO WE MUST HAVE BEEN UNDER LUTHOR'S CONTROL AT ONE POINT

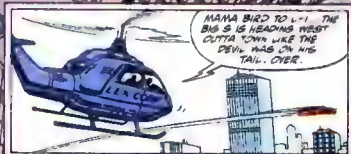
BUT IF LEXCORP ENGINEERS HAD DUPLICATED METALLO WHY WOULD THEY SEND THE ROBOTS TO ATTACK LUTHOR'S OWN HOLDINGS? IT MAKES NO SENSE UNLESS

THERE'S ALREADY BEEN A SPLIT IN LUTHOR'S PARTNER-SHIP WITH BRAINAC. AND IF BRAINAC IS INVOLVED IN THIS--

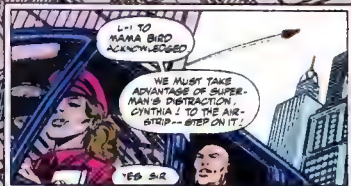


THAT SIGNAL, JIMMY--?

NO IT'S A CODED MESSAGE FROM THE CADRUS PROJECT



MAMA BIRD TO L-1 THE BIG S IS HEADING WEST CUTTA TOWN LIKE THE DEVIL HAS ON HIS TAIL. OVER.



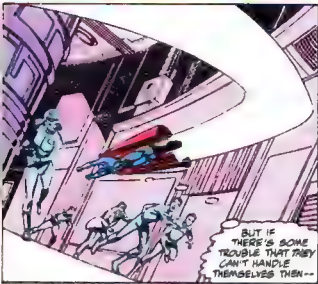
L-1 TO MAMA BIRD ACKNOWLEDGED

WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUPER-MAN'S DISTRACTION. CYNTHIA I TO THE AIR-STRIP-- STEP ON IT!

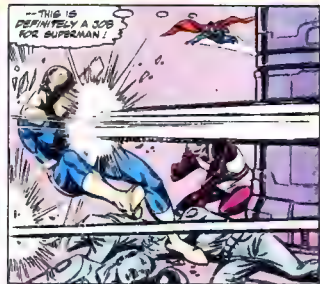
YES SIR



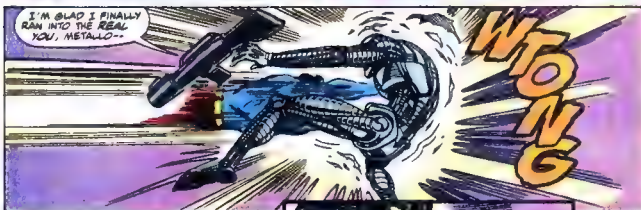
THE PROJECT'S MESSAGE WASN'T VERY SPECIFIC JUST A REPEATING S.O.B

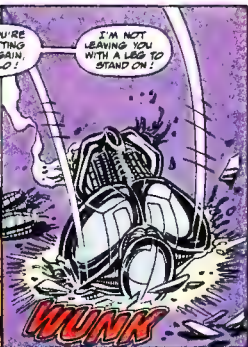
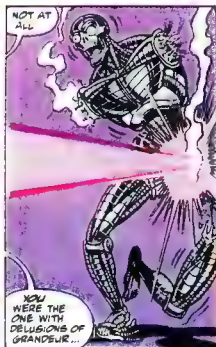
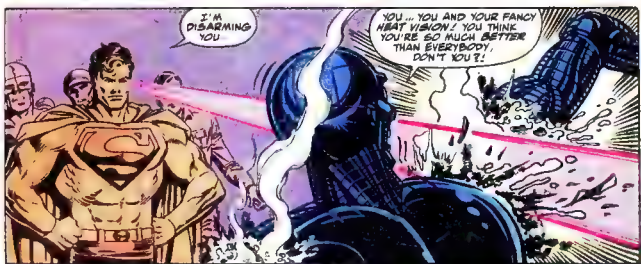


BUT IF THERE'S SOME TROUBLE THAT THEY CAN'T HANDLE THEMSELVES THEN--



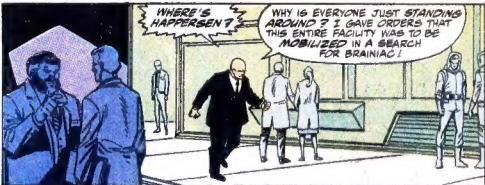
--THIS IS DEFINITELY A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!





HOURS LATER...

COMING
UP ON THE SITE
NOW, MR.
LUTHOR...



WHERE'S
HAPPENSEN?

WHY IS EVERYONE JUST STANDING
AROUND? I GAVE ORDERS THAT
THIS ENTIRE FACILITY WAS TO BE
MOBILIZED IN A SEARCH
FOR BRAINIAC!



AND WHAT IS THE
MEANING OF ALL
THIS CONSTRUCTION?
WHO ORDERED
THIS?



WHY,
I DID,
LEX!



I AM IN
COMPLETE CONTROL
HERE, AND I HAVE
BEEN FOR SOME
TIME!

BUT DON'T
WORRY - I
HAVE PLANS
FOR YOU!

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

RE:ACTION

DC COMICS INC.

666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

JENETTE KAHN, President & Editor-in-Chief
DICK GIORDANO, VP-Editorial
MIKE CARLIN, Editor
RICHARD BRUNING, Design Director
TERRI CUNNINGHAM, Managing Editor
BOB ROZAKIS, Production Director
PAUL LEVITZ, Executive VP & Publisher
JOE ORLANDO, VP-Creative Director
BRUCE BRISTOW, VP-Sales & Marketing
MATTHEW RAGONE, Circulation Director
TOM BALLOU, Advertising Director
PATRICK CALDON, VP & Controller

L-5281

Dear Men of ACTION:

"Doppelganger" in ACTION COMICS #644 had twice the excitement I had expected. The story's title character, Matrix, was indeed a double—in more ways than two. First and foremost we had Matrix's assumption of the star's own Superman/Clark Kent dual persona. Of course, this came on the heels of Superman's exploration of his Kall-El/Gangbuster identities. And this was Matrix's second assumption of a dual identity. On Matrix's duplicate Earth he/she had already faithfully copied Lana Lang (one of the Superman mythos's many double-L's) and modelled himself/herself after Superboy and thus became DC's second Supergirl. The costume he/she donned in this issue is reminiscent of that of Bizarro, himself a Superman/Clark Kent duplicate—dere I hope this means Matrix will become the new Bizarro (the second post-CRISIS one?) Overall, I enjoyed this issue so much that I just had to read it twice. But what else should I expect from the two-writer team of Stern and Perez paired with the two-artist team of Perez and Breeding? (Note that Perez did double duty!) This was a great second issue of the second run of Superman's ACTION COMICS.

Erik C. Miller
Eigenmann #658
Bloomington, IN 47406

Guess we shoulda run your letter second, eh, Erik?

Dear ACTION COMICS:

ACTION COMICS #644 was great. Ever since Supergirl/Matrix was introduced in SUPERMAN #16, I have followed her/his character. After she was injured and re-formed herself as Matrix, I was a little upset; I was hoping that Clark would adopt her as a sister or a cousin. But I like the way that the Matrix character has evolved, taking on the appearance and now the memories of Clark Kent. When Matrix first transformed herself into Clark I was shocked. I didn't think she/he could do that, but I'm glad he could, and now that he's left Earth, I hope that you're letting his character evolve in another way.

Ever since Matrix's introduction he has had some sort of mental instability. This showed up in two ways—either Matrix thinking that she's/he's Lana Lang or Clark Kent; or his mind trapped at the level of a small child. With his psychokinetic powers and his mental instability, Matrix reminds me of Vortox, one of my favorite characters from the

pre-CRISIS days, who had psychic-based powers and problems with his mental balance.

Now that Matrix has left Earth to find himself, I hope that you will let his character evolve into Vortox. Please, if/when you bring back his character, give him a new (full-body) costume; I hate his original one.

Randall A. Smith
2614 S. Carmona Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Bizarro? Vortox? Any votes for Matrix returning as a small white dog out there? (ONLY KIDDING !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

Dear Mike:

The second issue of ACTION COMICS as a monthly can be placed in the winners circle. Roger Stern and George Perez wrote a good, tight story around Superman and Matrix that was more than a slugfest between the two super-powered beings.

"Doppelganger" showed Superman not only having to fight a person who was his equal (and then some) but who was also a person whom he cares about. The Kents and Lana also love Matrix but are also scared and concerned about what Matrix has become. The highlight of the issue was having Superman rush to protect the Kents from falling wreckage while shouting "No!" Anyone who has had to watch very young children can easily find themselves feeling that way in similar situations.

The ending was a nice twist to the "Exile In Space" storyline, with Matrix, realizing the danger he now poses to the Kents and others, leaving Earth. And in what is now a rarity in comics, only one page was used for a subplot and one page for a flashback that sets up the background for the main story.

The team of George Perez and Brett Breeding was good, but I found myself at times trying to guess which artist had more control over which page. Perhaps with a bit more time the two will meld just right.

The coloring by Glenn was great, especially his coloring of Matrix as "Superman" in black and white. This made for an interesting contrast. The lettering by Bill Oakley was just fine, too, with the design of the "Doppelganger" title on the splash page being a nice reverse in style to the SUPERMAN logo.

So will Matrix ever return to Earth? Will any of the space-adventures of Matrix be credited to Superman? Will anyone ever suspect Clark Kent of being Superman, after Matrix's adventures in

Metropolis? Only continued reading will tell

Hurricane Heeran
15908 Sherman Way #5
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Dear Mike:

The Matrix saga has ended the way it had to, with Matrix leaving Earth. Matrix's story accelerated once Superman returned to Earth. Using my retrospectroscope, it was easy to see that this clash was inevitable. The Eradicator clearly is a very powerful device, and was used cleverly as the means to link the minds of the two Super-people. And the ending, with Matrix flying away from Earth, neatly paralleled Superman's own exile from his planet. It also reversed the original transposition of these two beings. In the end, Matrix needed its own identity and could only find that on Earth by copying someone else's. Matrix's own identity will be found elsewhere, although I suspect, your last panel notwithstanding, that we will see him again sometime.

The interplay between Superman and his double was fascinating. The inconsistent nature of the mental connection between the two was fascinating, and I think it was important that the influence worked in only one direction, once more showing Matrix's lack of personal identity. It must have been a terrible realization that he could only live his life through others. Early on, Superman asked how he could convince his double who was the phony, and I'm still not sure how he did it. It was more Matrix's own realization of damage caused, said realization being, ironically, Matrix's only original thought, that triggered his true memories. Superman—the real one—won through luck. And, as I surmised, there could be no happy ending. Matrix did have some of his own memories to leave behind, and that was a sad moment. One is left to wonder how the Kents, Lana, and Superman himself, will take stock of what has happened.

Finally, why was Matrix's Superman costume differently colored? Apart from making the two easier to distinguish, that is. This was obviously a deliberate decision, not a colorist's error, but not one that I understood.

Malcolm Bourne
8 Craigwell Road
Prestwich
Manchester M25 8EF
England

"Was a deliberate decision, Malcolm, and our own non-sequitural tip-of-the-hat to the original costume George Reeves wore in the first seasons of THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN television show. We defy you to find a more in-joke than that one, folks!"

Dear Gentlemen:

In regard to the work you have done (and will continue to do) on the Superman titles, you have a lot to be proud of. Since his "metamorphosis" I have learned more about the man rather than the super-man, and that is something I like very much.

What are the chances of the DC Comics writers doing more scripts for the Superboy TV series, since rumor is it's been renewed?

Wayne C. Brooks
4609 Winterberry Lane
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

P.S. Please don't take Kerry Gammill off the Superman team. He is too important.

SUPERBOY: THE SERIES has indeed been renewed for a second 26 episodes—and by the time you guys'll be reading this, the first few shows'll already have aired (how 'bout that new Lex Luthor!! Gerry Christopher ain't too shabby as the new Superboy either). Stacy Haiduk as Lana Lang is the only returning element this year (there is a God!) though there have been numerous changes this time around. At press time here we have seen two completed

episodes ("Metallo" and the first part of the season opener with Lex Luthor) and we in the Superman office have a renewed enthusiasm for the series to go along with this year's order for 26 more shows.

To answer your question, though, DC Comics writers Cary Bates, Elliot Maggin, Andy Helfer, Denny O'Neil, and yours truly, Mike Carlin, have been asked to write episodes for this season. Episodes featuring such well known DC villains as Mr. Mxyzptk (Michael J. Pollard returns, this time pursued by another Fifth Dimensioneer, Richard Kiel of "James Bond" movie fame), Yello Peri, Metallo (Michael Callan as a kind of Ralph Kramden gone mad!), and Lex Luthor (Sherman Howard assuming the role and wiping out all the competition with his performance).

They're even doing Bizarro this year (SUPERBOY's new Story Consultant Mark Jones writes this two-parter) as well as creating a slew of new major menaces.

The stakes have definitely been raised this year, folks, and we wouldn't mention it if we weren't jazzed about it this time 'round!

Oh, and P.S., Kerry Gammill hasn't been removed from the Superman mix—he's working steadily right here on ACTION COMICS and in two weeks he'll be helping out on SUPERMAN #39 ... but more on that later.

Dear Mike:
Re: ACTION #644

Of course the Doppelganger story has been done with Superman before. But Roger, George, Brett, Bill, Glenn, yourself and everyone else who contributed did it better.

And the cover was powerfully mesmerizing, too.

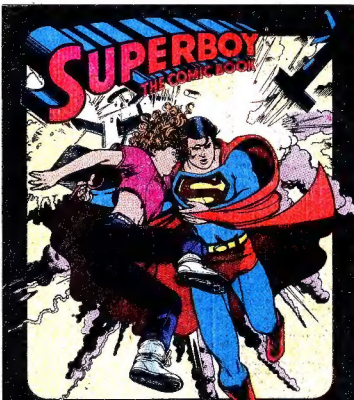
Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

Speaking of mesmerizing...

NEXT IN "SUPERMAN": The aforementioned Kerry Gammill will be pinch-hitting on pencils for Jerry Ordway, who scripts Jimmy Olsen's most excellent adventure in a truly bodacious dimension. Bob McLeod makes his debut as inker with the Man of Steel in SUPERMAN #39 in just fourteen days. This one will be anything but bogus! Party on, dudes!

THEN, IN "ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN": Roger Stern, Dan Jurgens, and the returning Art Thibert serve up a Christmas-time helping of peace in Metropolis and good will toward copy-girls. That's "Homeless for the Holidays" in just 21 days in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #462.

AND NEXT MONTH IN "ACTION COMICS": The final chapter of the "Brainiac Trilogy" unfolds before your very eyes. Roger Stern, George Perez, Kerry Gammill, and Brett Breeding do the honors in ACTION COMICS #649 in thirty big ones.



ALL NEW STORIES!
BASED ON THE HIT T.V. SERIES

BY JOHN MOORE (MADONNA & "I AM JAMIE ROSS") COVER BY KEVIN MAGUIRE

FREE POSTER!

Drawn by Kevin Maguire

SUBSCRIBE TO SUPERBOY WITH ALL NEW STORIES! Send only \$12.00 for 12 issues for the brand new SUPERBOY series. Send in your order by January 20th and receive issues #1, #2, #3 PLUS A FREE POSTER!

Issues #1-3 will be shipped together with the poster in early March 1990. Please allow 4-6 weeks for shipping. Orders received after January 20th will simply begin with the next available issue.

YES! Send me 12 issues of the new SUPERBOY series PLUS my FREE POSTER. I have enclosed a \$12.00 check or money order (U.S. funds only) for each subscription ordered. Please add \$5.00 for Canada and \$12.00 for foreign.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Year of Birth _____

Make check payable to DC Comics Inc.
Mail to DC Comics Subscriptions, PO Box 9528,
Dept. L-47, Baldwin, NY 11510.
Offer expires 1/20/90. Shipment is in March 1990.
Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. © DC Comics Inc.
© 1989 All Rights Reserved.



“...AND SCANNING FOR ALL!”

BeastCharming:
Not quite Big Blue,
but he's halfway there!

